

April 30, 2020



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Came across this poem written in 1869, reprinted during 1919 Pandemic.

It was written in 1869 by Kathleen O'Mara:

And people stayed at home
And read books
And listened
And they rested
And did exercises
And made art and played
And learned new ways of being
And stopped and listened
More deeply
Someone meditated, someone prayed
Someone met their shadow
And people began to think differently
And people healed.
And in the absence of people who
Lived in ignorant ways
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
The earth also began to heal
And when the danger ended and
People found themselves
They grieved for the dead
And made new choices
And dreamed of new visions
And created new ways of living
And completely healed the earth
Just as they were healed.



Photo taken during Spanish flu

Reprinted during Spanish flu
Pandemic, 1919



...a note from Pastor Sharon

When Shall We Open?

All the buzz in the news this week has been about re-opening our country's public spaces and places. I'm excited to get a haircut.

But I'm also leery. These days sheltering at home have felt akin to holing up in a fortress under siege. I feel wary about venturing out again. When our County Executive gives the thumbs up, I think returning to an open economy will need to be done cautiously.

The churches are also trying to figure out when and how to reopen. What will social distancing in the church building look like? Your pastor is doing her homework, attending to all the articles and emails that she can find relating to this process of re-immersion. What all this tells me is that it will not be as simple a matter as clicking our heads together and finding ourselves back in Kansas again. To accommodate the continuing presence of the COVID 19 virus in our community and world, it will still be necessary to take precautions to reduce the potential of transmission. Absolute safety is not likely to be available until there is a vaccine, and that may be awhile.

I have enlisted the help of our Safety Team to sort through all these recommendations with me and help design a thoughtful plan of phasing us back together. This team, which includes a number of medical personnel, are a pretty smart bunch, and I have confidence in the leadership they will offer. But I do not expect it to happen quickly.

That means that we will need to re-think how we do many of our spring and summer activities. Celebrations, mission events, and Vacation Bible School are going to look a lot different than what we've always done. But hey, that's not necessarily a bad thing. There are still important milestones to recognize, still folks who need to be served, and children to whom we need to share the stories of Jesus. And we'll do it. We'll do it all with fresh inspiration and vigor.

In the meantime, we will continue to offer worship on Thursday evenings through the Mountain Service, and Sundays mornings from the Sanctuary, both using internet technology and some pretty cool programs that enable us to show up together even as we are apart. We'll continue to zoom small groups, laughing and

learning. Parents are invited to find some great ideas for their kids on our new Webster United Methodist Children, Youth, and Families Facebook page.

This is not going to last forever, dear friends; but we're not there yet. Let's be patient a little while longer, and continue to look out for one another.

Peace be with you+

Pastor Sharon

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...a note from Pastor Josh

Dear Church,

This week in our Sunday school class we reflected on the scripture from John chapter 21 and Acts chapter 2. In these scriptures, we get a good "arch" for Simon Peter, after the resurrection. We discussed the idea of grace. I am reminded once again, of how the Holy Spirit can imprint this powerful message of grace upon our hearts. Through my church family, I am taught once again that this grace comes foremost through relationships. Then often times we are charged to extend this grace we have received outward to our community.

Since grace is based on relationships, it might be more difficult to have those relationships continuing in our isolation right now. I wanted to write this message, as a message for hope. I am praying for you. For the lonely and the isolated, for those are not feeling very grace-filled right now, and especially for those who are having trouble giving grace back to the world. Simon Peter must have felt terrible, beyond words. Not only did his Messiah just get killed, but he also made the wrong decision in not acknowledging he even knew Christ. Christ gave grace to

Simon Peter, allowing him to find peace in his soul and then charged him with a new ministry.

If you are searching for that peace, I know it will come for those who are looking for it. But I warn you, it might also come with a charge. The unqualified and the broken are called upon by the Holy Spirit. We are broken and unqualified. Let us be prepared for what ministry this time of crisis will call us to.

Blessings,
Joshua

There is room for you in Pastor Josh's Sunday school class, meeting at 9am on Sunday mornings via zoom. Contact Pastor Josh at assistantpastor@websterum.org to join.

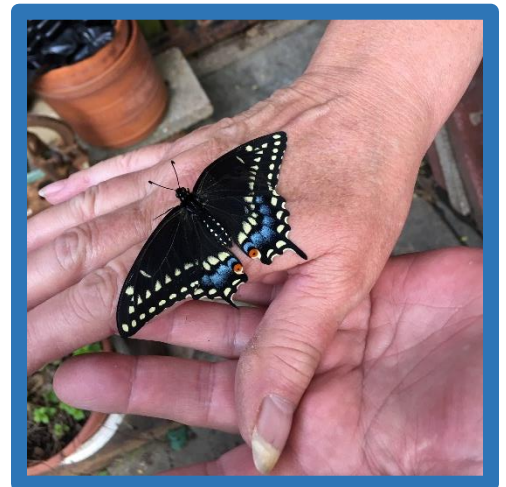




New Zoom Class Hosted by Pastor Sharon

On Tuesdays at 7:30p, you are invited to join our new zoom class, discussing Harold Kushner's book, "When Bad Things Happen to Good People". A group of 10 met this week, and there's room for you! Contact Pastor Sharon if you would like to jump in.

pastorsharon@websterum.org



Children! We need lots of butterflies to decorate our Ted tree out front of the church! Butterflies are born out of a cocoon, just like a chick from an egg. Both images remind of us of Jesus' resurrection, when God gave Jesus new life.

All you need are coffee filters, magic markers, water, and string/ribbon/pipecleaners. Go to Webster United Methodist Children, Youth, and Families Facebook page to get the instructions from Miss S. Then come by and hang them on the tree for all our walking neighbors to enjoy.

(Pastor Sharon says glitter on the wings would be pretty in the sunshine...)

Our Prayer Concerns

Joyce and Scott Simpson family; Sophia (Anna Schwind); Jacque (Linda Austin); Earl Emert and Roger Johnston (sons-in-law of Jean Major); Lucy Kroenung; Cindy Burke (Carol Gilker); Ariana (Jan Hanson); Val (Nephew of Lois Brodt); Everett, Thomas, Heather and Amanda (Karen Clark); Traci Stuart and family; Sally Cobb; Brent and Alison McCurley (Jan McCurley), Libbi Pacatte; Becca Stevens and family (Cindy Andrews); Kate Fuller, Sherry Montford, the Emergency Dept at Barnes Hospital (Helen Fuller), those quarantined in close quarters; Amanda and Caleb Sawyer (Debbie Brooks daughter and husband); Phil Bryan and Emily Moroney (Sherry Bryan husband and granddaughter); Ginger (Alma and Merv Wright's daughter); John and Carolyn Denison (Carolyn Redmore's brother and sister in law); Diane and Ron Wallace; Matthew Francis (Lisa Carswell's son); Ryanlyn Mathis; Rachel Krakos; people suffering through natural disasters; medical personnel caring for the sick; those infected with virus; for workers who bring us food; for those caring for small children, doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists, and other healthcare providers

And from our outside Prayer Box: "Please pray for the people with the coronavirus", and "Please pray for my family."



Please join our Live-streaming Worship
Thursdays at 7:30pm
and Sundays at 10:30 am,
on Facebook at Webster United Methodist,
or our website at websterunitedmethodist.org.

You are also invited to join "Prayers with Pastor Sharon", at noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays on Facebook or on this page within our Facebook window.